

2001

# Annual Report of Investigations of the United States Postal Inspection Service



*Badges  
of Honor*



*Safety • Security • Integrity*



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# A Message from the Chief Postal Inspector

November 2001

**T**his 2001 *Annual Report of Investigations* of the United States Postal Inspection Service comes at the end of a year like no other in our history. During this time of tragedy following the terrorist attacks on our nation, I am proud to report that the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, one of the oldest federal law enforcement agencies in the country, has served America and all Americans with great honor and courage.

During and after the attacks on September 11, 2001, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service stood tall, protecting postal employees and assets and assisting in restoring U.S. Postal Service operations swiftly and efficiently. We joined other law enforcement agencies in the investigation of these terrorist acts. We responded to every disaster site—and continue to respond—with the best our service has to offer: the unflagging dedication of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, charged with safeguarding “the sanctity of the seal.”

In my testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on International Security, Proliferation and Federal Services on September 20, 2001, reproduced in part in this annual report, I spoke at length on the many acts, large and small, performed by the employees of the Postal Inspection Service since this tragedy occurred. I’ve never been prouder of how our employees handled themselves and answered the call to duty as they have during this crisis in America. I urge you to read this testimony, which I believe will reaffirm what I have always held to be true: the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and all employees of the U.S. Postal Service, represent the best of what America is today.



While we continue our work in responding to this tragedy, we have sustained our efforts in other important areas. Postal Inspectors this year arrested 11,873 criminal suspects, with 54 percent of the arrests for mail theft. Postal Inspectors additionally investigated 3,475 mail fraud cases in FY 2001 and responded to approximately 66,000 consumer

fraud complaints. Mail fraud investigations resulted in 1,691 arrests, approximately \$1.2 billion in court-ordered and voluntary restitution and 642 civil or administrative actions. In addition to numerous cases involving bombs, threats and injurious items in the mail, Inspectors arrested 335 suspects for child sexual exploitation offenses related to the mail and 1,662 suspects for drug trafficking and money laundering via the mail.

Protecting the U.S. Postal Service’s revenue and assets is integral to the mission of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Through their investigations of workers’ compensation fraud this fiscal year, Postal Inspectors reported \$99.2 million in long-term and continuation-of-pay cost-avoidance savings for the Postal Service.

I proudly submit this account of our 2001 activities to the Postmaster General, the Postal Service Board of Governors and postal managers and employees across the country. Let all of America know that the U.S. Postal Inspection Service continues to serve this country with dedication and honor, preserving the safety, security and integrity of the U.S. Postal Service, postal employees, postal assets and the U.S. Mail.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "K.C. Weaver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Kenneth C. Weaver



# Leadership Team

of the United States  
Postal Inspection Service  
FY 2001

**Chief Postal Inspector**  
K.C. Weaver

**Deputy Chief Inspector**  
*Security & Technology*  
J. Rowan

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Information Technology*  
R. Coccia

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Corporate Information Management*  
R. Luers

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Computer Crimes & Commerce*  
J. Easley

**Inspector in Charge**  
*International Security*  
D. Hill

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Security*  
T. Denny

**Deputy Chief Inspector**  
*Investigations*  
K. Newman

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Fraud, Child Exploitation,  
Asset Forfeiture &  
Money Laundering*  
L. Maxwell

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Mail Theft & Violent Crimes*  
K. Roberts

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Revenue & Asset Protection Program*  
K. Bond

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Forensic & Technical Services*  
R. Geffen

**Deputy Chief Inspector**  
*Professional Standards & Resource Development*  
I. Gillis  
(Acting)

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Strategic Planning & Management Process*  
J. Stinchfield

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Career Development*  
J. Somerset  
(Acting)

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Finance & Administrative Services*  
L. Visos  
(Acting)

**Manager**  
*Human Resource Performance*  
N. Johnson

**Deputy Chief Inspector**  
*Field Operations-East*  
L. Heath

**Inspectors in Charge**  
*Florida*  
J. Belz

*Mid-Atlantic*  
A. Crawford

*New York Metro*  
J. Skidmore

*North Jersey/Caribbean*  
K. Burke

*Northeast*  
K. Jones

*Philadelphia Metro*  
I. Carle

*Southeast*  
W. Mitchell

*Washington Metro*  
A. Clemmons

*Western Allegheny*  
J. Birch

**Deputy Chief Inspector**  
*Field Operations-West*  
M. Ahern

**Inspectors in Charge**  
*Gulf Coast*  
R. Dodd

*Michiana*  
A. Davidson

*Midwest*  
R. Bowdren

*Northern California*  
A. Kiel

*Northern Illinois*  
M. Phanco

*Northwest*  
R. Morgan

*Rocky Mountain*  
M. Cobos

*Southern California*  
J. Freeman

*Southwest*  
A. Holmes

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Office of Counsel*  
L. Katz

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Office of Inspections*  
E. Crespo  
(Acting)

**Inspector in Charge**  
*Congressional & Public Affairs*  
D. Mihalko



# Introduction

As one of our country's oldest federal law enforcement agencies, founded by Benjamin Franklin, the United States Postal Inspection Service has a long, proud and successful history of fighting criminals who attack our nation's postal system and misuse it to defraud, endanger or otherwise threaten the American public. As the law enforcement and security arm of the United States Postal

Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service is a highly specialized, professional organization performing investigative and security functions essential to a stable and sound postal system.

Congress empowered the Postal Service "to investigate postal offenses and civil matters relating to the Postal Service." Through its security and enforcement functions, the Postal

Inspection Service provides assurances to American businesses for the safe exchange of funds and securities through the U.S. Mail; to postal customers of the "sanctity of the seal" in transmitting correspondence and messages; and to postal employees of a safe work environment.

As fact-finding and investigative agents, Postal Inspectors are federal law enforcement officers who carry firearms, make arrests, execute federal search warrants and serve subpoenas. Inspectors work closely with U.S. Attorneys, other law enforcement agencies and local prosecutors to investigate postal cases and prepare them for court. There are more than 1,900 Postal Inspectors stationed throughout the United States who enforce roughly 200 federal laws covering investigations of crimes that adversely affect or fraudulently use the U.S. Mail and postal system.



The Executive Committee of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service (standing l to r): Inspector in Charge of Congressional & Public Affairs Daniel L. Mihalko, Chief Postal Inspector Kenneth C. Weaver, Inspector in Charge of Office of Inspections Janice M. Somerset, outgoing Deputy Chief Inspector of Security & Technology James K. Belz, Deputy Chief Inspector-Eastern Field Operations Lee R. Heath, incoming Deputy Chief Inspector of Security & Technology James J. Rowan, and Deputy Chief Inspector-Western Field Operations Michael E. Ahern; and (seated): Deputy Chief Inspector of Investigations Kenneth W. Newman, Acting Deputy Chief Inspector of Professional Standards & Resource Development Ida L. Gillis and Inspector in Charge-Counsel Lawrence Katz of the Office of Counsel.

Photo by Robert J. Campbell, U.S. Postal Inspection Service

To assist in carrying out its responsibilities, the Postal Inspection Service maintains a Security Force staffed by more than 1,400 uniformed Postal Police Officers who are assigned to critical postal facilities throughout the country. The officers provide perimeter security, escort high-value mail shipments and perform other essential protective functions.

The Postal Inspection Service operates five forensic crime laboratories strategically located in cities across the country. The labs are staffed with forensic scientists and technical specialists, who assist Inspectors in analyzing evidentiary material needed for identifying and tracking criminal suspects and in providing expert testimony for cases going to trial.

The Inspection Service's 900 professional and technical employees, who include forensic specialists, information technology experts, financial analysts and others, play a vital role in supporting the criminal investigative and security functions of the Postal Inspection Service. They perform a wide variety of tasks, including developing and continually upgrading information systems; providing forensic examinations of evidence; deploying electronic security and surveillance equipment; publishing policy handbooks and consumer awareness guides; supplying photography and video services; and facilitating direct communications with Congress and the public.

The National Headquarters offices of the Postal Inspection Service are organized in functional groups that report to Deputy Chief Inspectors for Investigations, Security & Information Technology, and Professional Standards & Resource Development. The Postal Inspection Service has 18 field divisions, which report directly to two Deputy Chief Inspectors for field operations. Field offices are supported by five Inspection Service Operations Support

Groups. The Inspection Service's Executive Committee, which comprises the Chief Postal Inspector, five Deputy Chief Inspectors and the three Inspectors in Charge who report directly to the Chief Postal Inspector, establishes the direction of the organization. The National Leadership Team consists of the Deputy Chief Inspectors and all Inspectors in Charge.

The Postal Inspection Service's national information technology infrastructure supports about 4,300 users at more than 220 sites nationwide. Inspection Service offices are linked nationally via a dedicated frame-relay network, with online connections to the Postal Service, the National Crime Information Center, the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System and the Internet.

The Office of Inspections' three-fold mission is to promote integrity and excellence in the Postal Inspection Service through independent internal investigations of its employees, oversee the quality and thoroughness of Inspection Service operations by conducting reviews of field divisions and headquarter units, and protect the safety of postal employees and customers by providing security and preventive services at National Headquarters.

The Office of Counsel provides legal advice and services in support of Postal Inspection Service investigations, programs and goals, and processes requests for access to Inspection Service records. The Counsel's office comprises 20 Inspector-Attorneys and a support staff of paralegal specialists, information disclosure specialists, a labor relations specialist, a program specialist and an administrative support specialist.

Charged with managing the Postal Inspection Service's internal and external communications, staff from the office of Congressional & Public Affairs (C&PA) issue news and video releases for national distribution, as well as pre-

ventive and informational publications for postal employees and the public. C&PA personnel represent Inspection Service interests on Capitol Hill and in liaison efforts with other government and law enforcement agencies. C&PA's Internet Web site provides weekly news updates and in-depth advice for the public on mail theft and mail fraud, and an Intranet Web site facilitates employee communications.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service extends full cooperation to all federal, state and local investigative and prosecutive authorities in law enforcement matters to ensure greater protection to the public. Postal Inspectors regularly participate in joint task force cases with other agencies aimed at curtailing widespread criminal acts of an organized nature.

For more information on the Postal Inspection Service, please visit our Web site at [www.usps.com/postalinspectors](http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors).